GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:994
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
GLOBAL WARMING ON INDIAN COASTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Indian coasts are vulnerable to global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

a)- b) The Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently released its fourth Assessment Report containing a projection of global average sea level rise of 0.18 − 0.59 meters by the end of the current century. Indian scientists have studied local sea level rise at various places from Indian Tide gauge data, which indicates the observed trends during the past century. These are as follows:

1) Cochin (1939-1991) = 1.2 mm/year

2) Vishakhapatnam (1937-1991) = 0.9 mm/year

3) Mumbai (1870-1990)= 0.8 mm/year

Another study conducted for Sunderbans, but only for a recent period, reveals a somewhat higher rate of sea level rise in that region.

4) Sunderban (1985-2000) = 3.14 mm/year

c) Sea level rise is a relatively slow phenomenon occurring in the background of more dramatic manifestations like storm surges and tidal variations. Thus, in order to minimize the impacts viz. coastal erosion and coastal zone (covering land and EEZ) management, for which the Central and State Governments have accorded higher priority in their respective specific programmes of Ministry of Water Resources (National Coastal Protection Project-NCPP), Ministry of Environment & Forests (Coastal zone Management) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management-ICMAM Directorate).